BLUE BEETLE
12¢
NOVEMBER
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BLUE BEETLE
THE GALLANT CRUSADER FOR THE FORCES OF GOOD, MEETS THE EVIL...
MR. THUNDERBOLT!
SINISTER
YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME, BLUE BEETLE! YOU ARE DOOMED!

Charlton Action Heroes

HaCsA - Once-Ler scans

Blue Beetle Vol2 #3
Cover by Dick Giordano
the rest isn't worth looking at.

MR. THUNDERBOLT AND THE SUPERSTAR

ONLY THE VERY WEALTHIEST AND INFLUENTIAL MEN IN THE WORLD COULD AFFORD TO RIDE THAT FIRST TRIP ABOARD "THE SUPERSTAR," THE FANTASTIC NEW ROCKET-POWERED AIRCRAFT THAT BROUGHT CONTINENTS TO WITHIN MINUTES OF EACH OTHER/ DR. DAN GARRETT, NOT A POOR MAN, NONETHELESS WAS A NON-PAYING GUEST ABOARD...AT THE REQUEST OF THE CORPORATION WHICH HAD DEVELOPED THE AIR-CRAFT/ ANOTHER MAN IN THAT CABIN WAS MR. THUNDERBOLT...REPUTED TO BE THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD/ THIS MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE GREATEST, SAFEST, FASTEST AIRCRAFT HAD TO SUCCEED...BUT DARK POWERS WERE ARRAYED AGAINST "THE SUPERSTAR"....AND EVIL LURKED IN THE BANKED BLACK CLOUDS THAT SUD-DENLY LOOMED DIRECTLY IN HER COURSE/ THE PILOT COULDN'T ACT IN TIME... ONLY THE BLUE BEETLE, DERIVING HIS POWER FROM THE MAGICAL POWERS OF THE ANCIENT PHARAOHS, WAS ABLE TO FORESEE THE DANGER..AND INTERCEDE IN TIME/

NOW, LIGHTNING...COME TO ME, YOUR MASTER, DESTROY US ALL/
OUR ALTITUDE IS 110,000 FEET/ A THUNDERHEAD COULDN'T EXIST OUT HERE...YET THERE IT IS..AND THERE'S A, THUNDERBOLT/ WE'RE DOOMED...
BARRROOOOM

BLUE BEETLE, ENDOWED WITH GREAT POWER TO COMBAT EVIL, TOOK THE SHATTERING POWER OF THE STORM...
BAROOM
THEN...IT WAS OVER! THERE WAS NO CLOUD, ONLY SUPERSTAR HURTLING THROUGH THE TROPOSHERE AT 4,000MPH!
I'D BETTER RESUME MY IDENTITY AS DR. DAN GARRETT...
THERE HE IS...THE MAN WHO I OVERHEARD CALLING ON THE LIGHTNING TO STRIKE...JUST BEFORE IT DID!
LOUIE
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! I AM MR. THUNDERBOLT, DR. GARRETT! WON'T YOU JOIN ME?
THANK YOU! YOURS IS AN ODD NAME; IF I MAY BE FORGIVEN FOR SAYING SO!
VERY IMPRESSIVE, MR. THUNDERBOLT -- NOW RELEASE MY HAND!
I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU, DR. GARRETT, I USED ENOUGH POWER TO KILL, YET YOU ONLY FELT DISCOMFORT!
ZAP

SO, THE MOMENT OF GREAT PERIL ENDED..MR. THUNDERBOLT WAS UNCONSCIOUS! DR. GARRETT INFORMED THE PLANE COMMANDER OF THE PRESENCE OF AN ENEMY ON BOARD!
THUNDERBOLT IS EVIL! HE MUST BE HELD UNDER CLOSE ARREST!

DR. GARRETT, I DO NOT KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHY YOU WERE PERMITTED ABOARD SUPERSTAR! I KNOW OF MR. THUNDERBOLT, HOWEVER, HE IS RICH AND WORLD-FAMOUS! I WILL NOT IMPRISON HIM!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

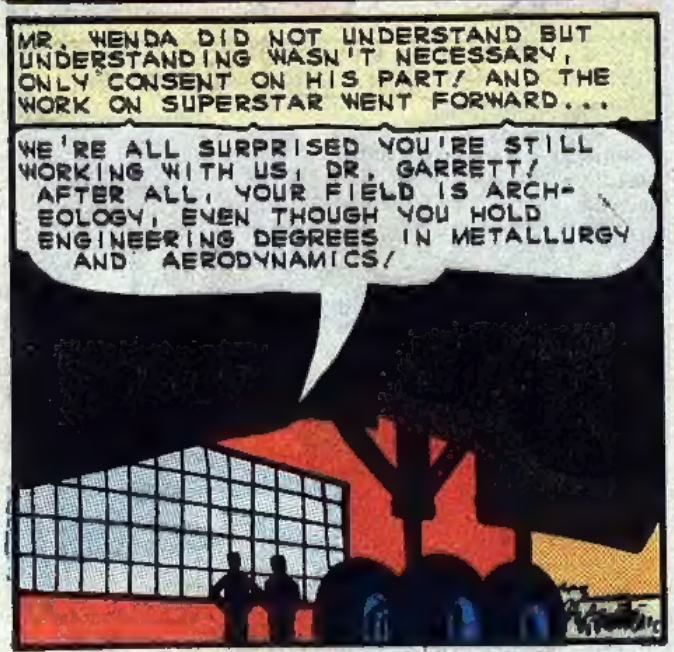
SO, MR. THUNDERBOLT WAS NOT TRIED FOR HIS ATTEMPTED DESTRUCTION OF SUPERSTAR!
A MOMENT, DR. GARRETT!
I SHALL CRUSH YOU, DR. GARRETT! YOU KNOW WHY I AM HERE ON YOUR PLANET, OF COURSE?
I KNOW EXACTLY, UXERITE!
YOU POSSESS GREATER INTELLIGENCE THAN YOUR FELLOWS, GARRETT! BUT YOUR PUNY POWERS SHALL AVAIL YOU LITTLE! IF I WILLED...
YOU BLABBER, DR. THUNDERBOLT! BE STILL!
YOU ARE A FORERUNNER AND THERE ARE OTHERS OF YOUR KINS WAITING TO FOLLOW YOU HERE! YOUR FAILURE WILL WARN YOUR EVIL FELLOWS TO STAY AWAY FROM EARTH!
THEN, DR. GARRETT WALKED AWAY! MR. THUNDERBOLT SEEMED FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS A FEW SECONDS LONGER! WHEN HE'D RECOVERED, DR. GARRETT WAS LONG GONE!
YOU SAW HIM, GUSTAV?
JAH, HERR DOCTOR!
THEN, YOUR JOB WILL BE TO FIND AND DESTROY THAT MAN! DROP ALL OTHER PROJECTS!

THUNDERBOLT'S BAND OF "SPECIALISTS" WERE AFTER DAN GARRETT DAY AND NIGHT/
NOW, WHAT IS THIS MODIFICATION YOU SO URGENTLY PROPOSE, DR. GARRETT?
DAN JUST POINTED OUT AN OBVIOUS DANGER WHEN SUPERSTAR IS FLYING, SIR/

LIGHTNING CAN DESTROY THIS AIRCRAFT IN A SPLIT SECOND, KILLING ALL ON BOARD/ I'VE REPORTED MR. THUNDERBOLT'S ATTEMPT TO ATTRACT LIGHTNING TO "SUPERSTAR" ON HER MAIDEN FLIGHT/ IF BY GREAT GOOD FORTUNE, BLUE BEETLE HAD NOT INTERVENED...

THE MODIFICATION DR. GARRETT WANTS WON'T BE EXPENSIVE OR TAKE MUCH TIME, MR. WENDA/
WE MERELY GROUND THE VARIOUS COMPONENTS OF THE AIRCRAFT, DIRECT THE TREMENDOUS VOLTAGE TO THE RADIO ROOM, AND REDIRECT THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE IN ANOTHER DIRECTION/

SUPERSTAR IS MORE THAN A MERE CONVENTIONAL AIRCRAFT/ AT MY SUGGESTION, YOU HAVE EMBODIED FACILITIES WHICH WILL PERMIT TRAVEL INTO SPACE/ THIS VEHICLE WILL AT LAST ENABLE MAN TO TRAVEL TO THE PLANETS/


MR. WENDA DID NOT UNDERSTAND BUT UNDERSTANDING WASN'T NECESSARY, ONLY CONSENT ON HIS PART/ AND THE WORK ON SUPERSTAR WENT FORWARD...
WE'RE ALL SURPRISED YOU'RE STILL WORKING WITH US, DR. GARRETT/ AFTER ALL, YOUR FIELD IS ARCHEOLOGY, EVEN THOUGH YOU HOLD ENGINEERING DEGREES IN METALLURGY AND AERODYNAMICS/

END OF PART I/ READ CHAPTER II STORM OF FEAR/

WHAT KILLED THEM?

TAKE THE TRICERATOPS...THIS NIGHTMARISH BEAST LOOKED LIKE A RHINOCEROS BUT IT WAS A LOT LARGER AND HEAVIER AND IT COULD TRAVEL FASTER/ HEAVILY ARMORED, TRAVELING IN PACKS, INVULNERABLE TO THE BIGGEST PREDATORS OF ITS ERA...IT DIED AWAY/ WHY? WHAT KILLED IT?

OR TAKE THE TYRANNOSAURUS, YOU CAN HAVE ONE IF YOU CAN CARRY IT AWAY...IT ONLY GREW TO A LENGTH OF 80 FEET, HEIGHT 40 FEET, AND THE WEIGHT IS UNKNOWN BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T GET IT ON A SCALE/

ALL OF THESE MONSTERS OF THE DINOSAUR GROUP VANISHED? WHY? HOW? WELL...IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BLOOD OR STOMACH PARASITES...

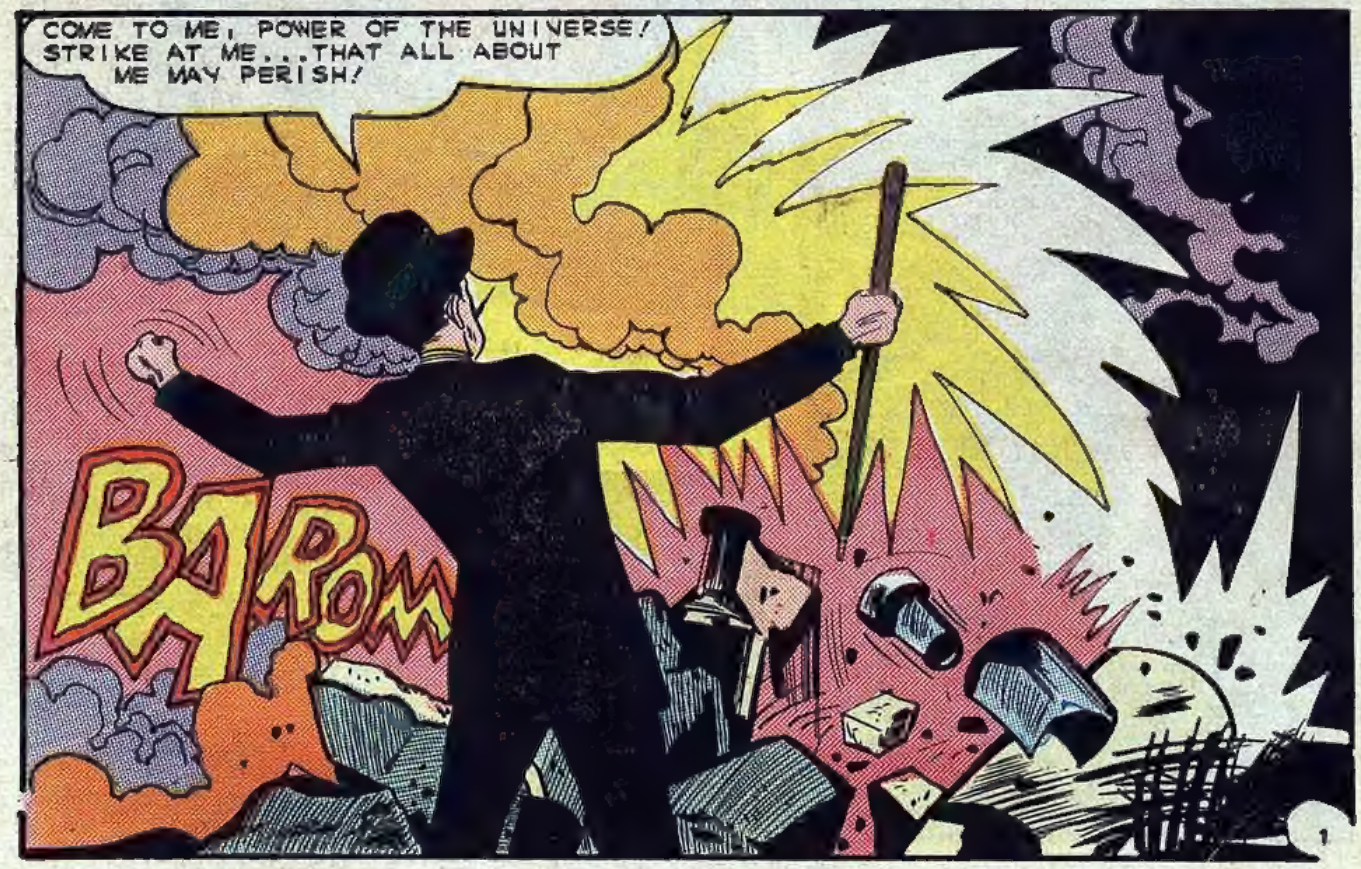
OR A FURRY LITTLE RODENT, AN EGG-EATER...WHO RAIDED THEIR NESTS AS FAST AS THESE GREAT REPTILES LAID EGGS... AND THE LITTLE BEASTIE OUTLASTED THE BIG ARMORED UGLIES/ LUCKILY FOR US, NO?!

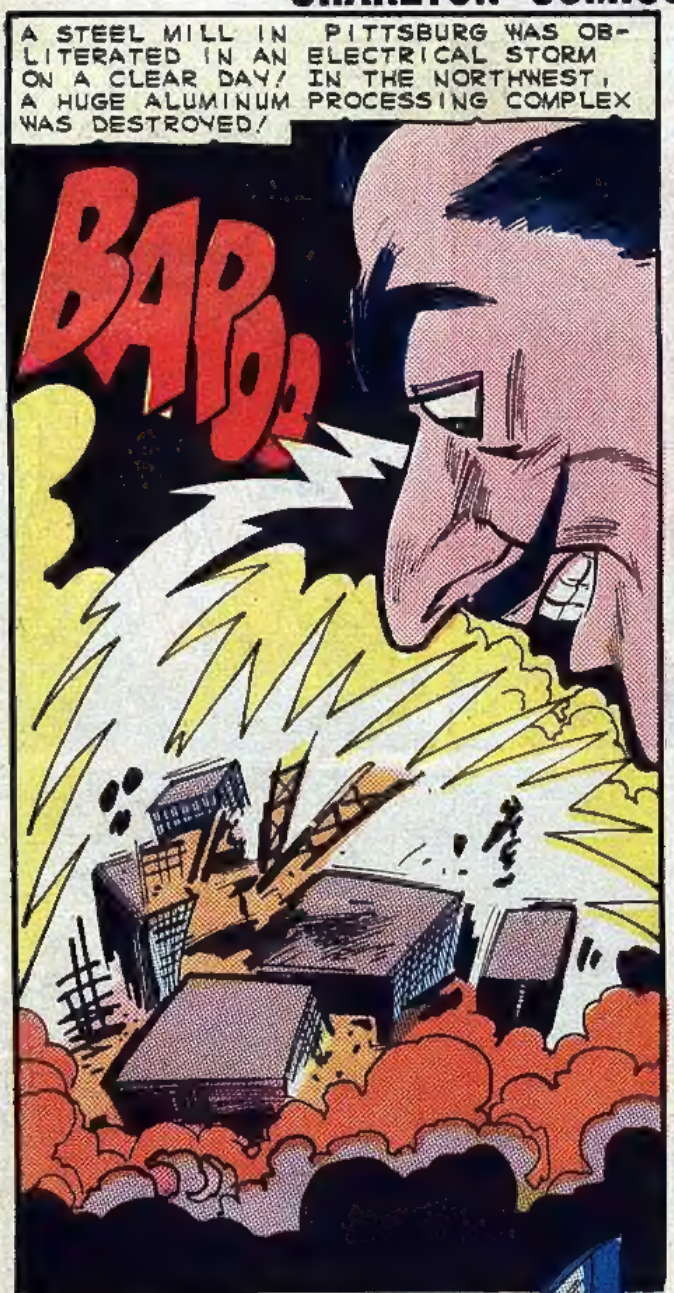
END

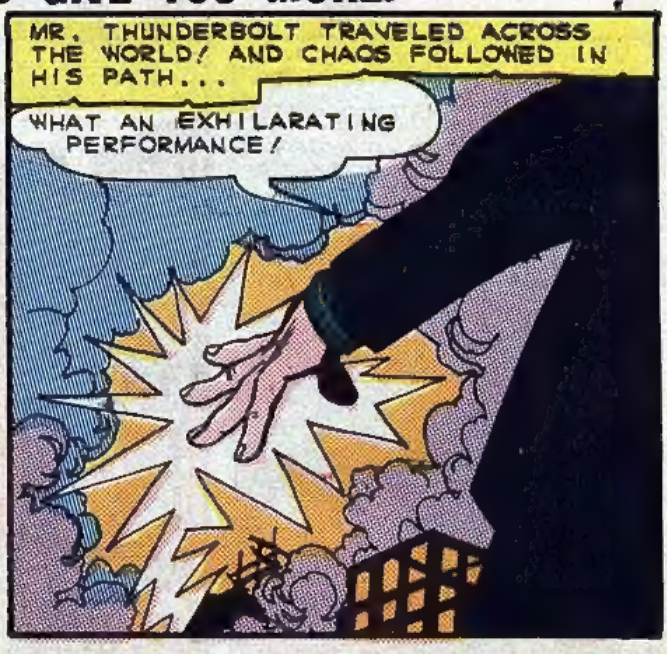
PART 2 STORM OF FEAR

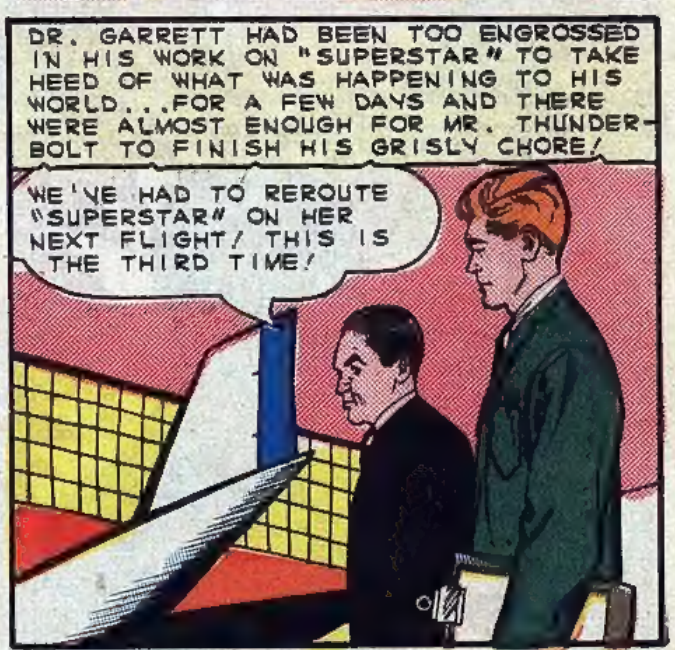
SUPERSTAR WAS THE HOPE OF MAN... AND KEPT TOO CLOSELY GUARDED FOR MR. THUNDERBOLT'S SABOTEURS TO DESTROY! SO, WHILE WORK WENT FORWARD ON THAT PROJECT, MR. THUNDERBOLT OPERATED ELSEWHERE!

AS A PRINCIPAL STOCKHOLDER, MR. THUNDERBOLT, LET ME ASSURE YOU THIS IS THE SAFEST STEEL MILL IN THE WORLD!
IT WILL PERISH, SLOANE! IN SECONDS, WHEN I SNAP MY FINGERS!

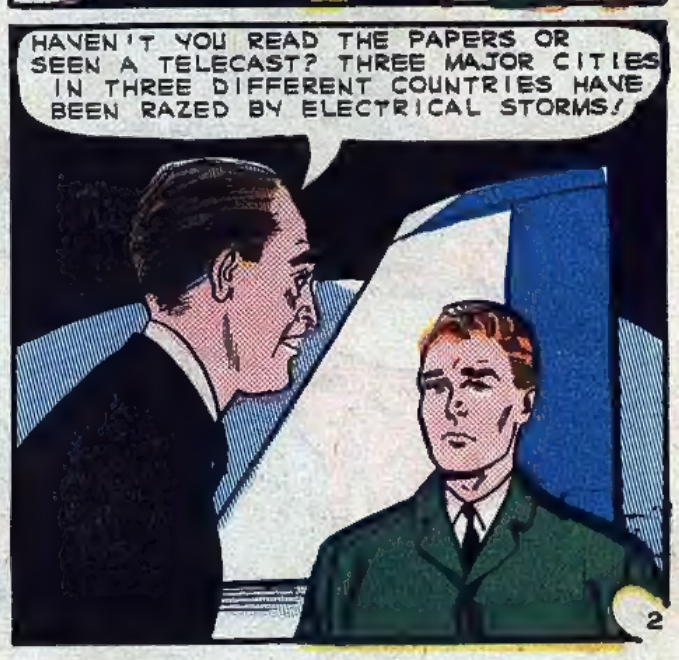


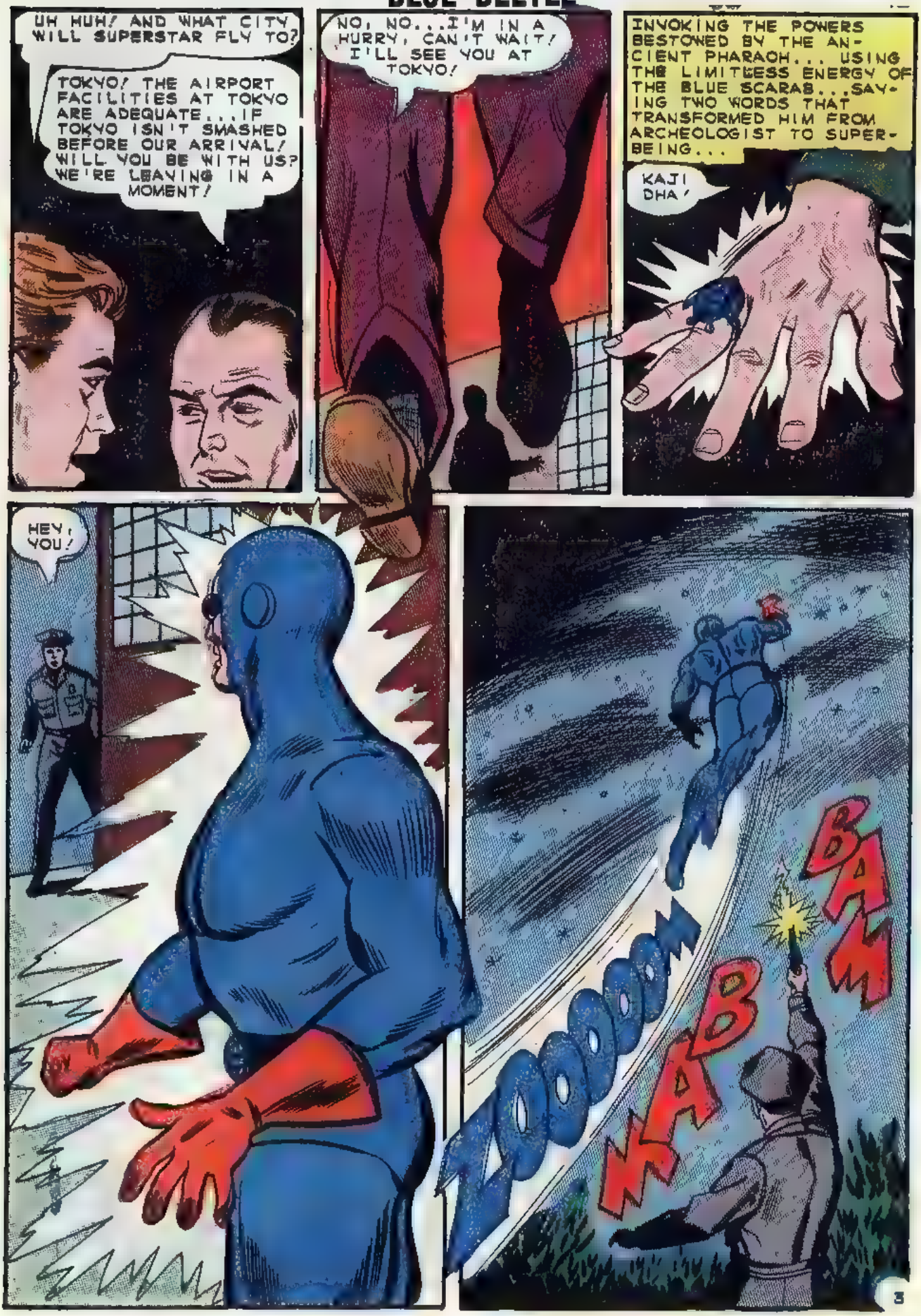

A STEEL MILL IN PITTSBURG WAS OBLITERATED IN AN ELECTRICAL STORM ON A CLEAR DAY/ IN THE NORTHWEST, A HUGE ALUMINUM PROCESSING COMPLEX WAS DESTROYED/
BAROOM!


MR. THUNDERBOLT TRAVELED ACROSS THE WORLD/ AND CHAOS FOLLOWED IN HIS PATH...
WHAT AN EXHILARATING PERFORMANCE/


DR. GARRETT HAD BEEN TOO ENGROSSED IN HIS WORK ON "SUPERSTAR" TO TAKE HEED OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO HIS WORLD...FOR A FEW DAYS AND THERE WERE ALMOST ENOUGH FOR MR. THUNDERBOLT TO FINISH HIS GRISLY CHORE/
WE'VE HAD TO REROUTE "SUPERSTAR" ON HER NEXT FLIGHT/ THIS IS THE THIRD TIME/

OH? WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?


HAVEN'T YOU READ THE PAPERS OR SEEN A TELECAST? THREE MAJOR CITIES IN THREE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN RAZED BY ELECTRICAL STORMS/


UH HUH! AND WHAT CITY WILL SUPERSTAR FLY TO?
TOKYO! THE AIRPORT FACILITIES AT TOKYO ARE ADEQUATE...IF TOKYO ISN'T SMASHED BEFORE OUR ARRIVAL! WILL YOU BE WITH US? WE'RE LEAVING IN A MOMENT!
NO, NO...I'M IN A HURRY, CAN'T WAIT! I'LL SEE YOU AT TOKYO!
INVOKING THE POWERS BESTOWED BY THE ANCIENT PHARAOH... USING THE LIMITLESS ENERGY OF THE BLUE SCARAB...SAYING TWO WORDS THAT TRANSFORMED HIM FROM ARCHEOLOGIST TO SUPER-BEING...
KAJI DHA!
HEY, YOU!
KAB
BAM

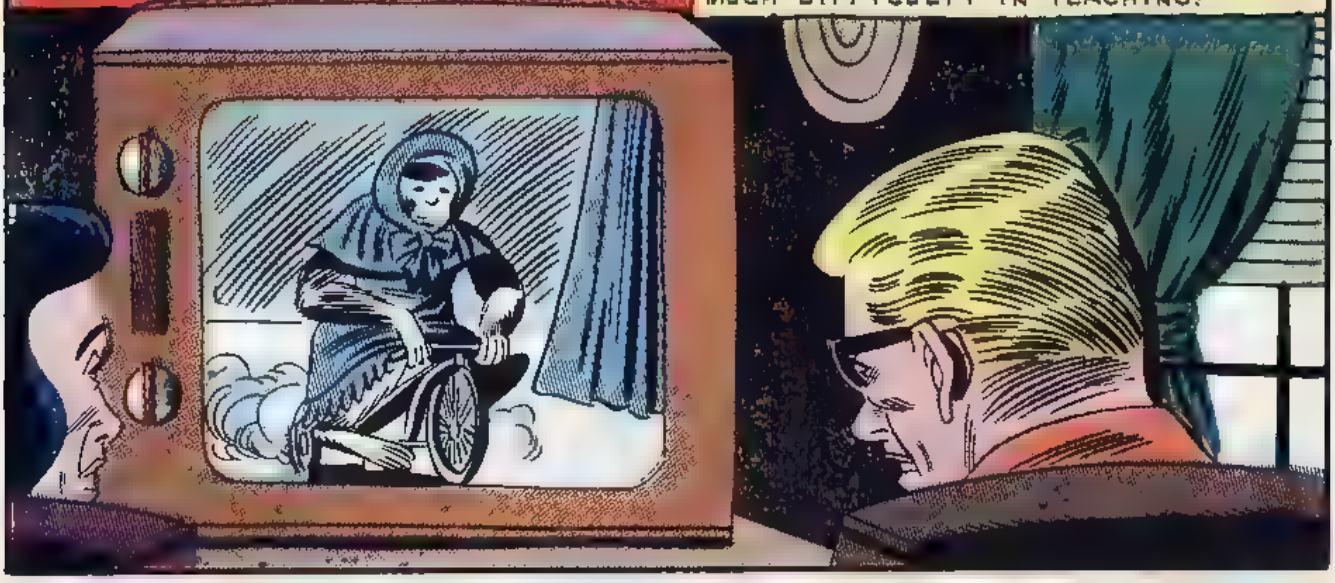
HIGHER, FASTER, FARTHER THAN SUPERSTAR...BLUE BEETLE ZOOMED AT TREMENDOUS ALTITUDE...
CHARLIE THREE FROM KINGPIN! INTERCEPT AND DESTROY UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT!
ROGER, WILCO!
FIRST MISSION IS A HIT! SECOND ONE ON TARGET, THIRD IS A... WAIT A MINUTE!
BULLPUP AIR TO AIR ROCKETS! GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO MEASURE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS!
WHOOSH
MISSILES EXPLODED ON TARGET... BUT TARGET SEEMS TO BE A MAN... HE'S FLYING...AND THE MISSILES DIDN'T EVEN SHAKE HIM UP!
BAROM

MUST CONGRATULATE AIR FORCE... THEIR NEW MISSILES PACK A REAL PUNCH! BETTER GO LOWER...TOKYO'S DOWN BELOW!
TOKYO..RE-BUILT SINCE THE DISASTERS OF WORLD WAR II..TOKYO OF THE FIRE-STORMS AND THE BOMBS..DESTINED TO BE THE NEXT VICTIM OF MR. THUNDER-BOLT!
GOT TO FIND MR. THUNDERBOLT! HE'S SUMMONING THE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING TO THIS AREA...
I SUMMON YOU, POWERS OF THE UN-IVERSE! I, THUNDERBOLT OF THE PLANET UXER, HAVE BEEN GIVEN THESE POWERS!
CANNOT YOU READ, FOREIGN DEVIL? IS FORBIDDEN TO LOITER!
JUMP ALONG, YOU MOVE QUICK!
YOU FOOL!

END OF PART II READ PART III
FLAMES OF FURY!

THE SMARTEST APES

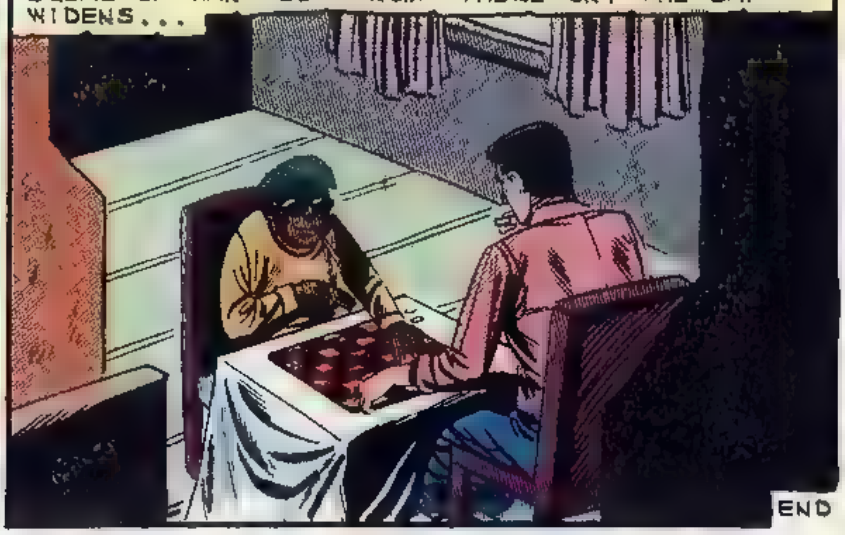
IN THESE DAYS OF TELEVISION, ALMOST EVERYONE HAS SEEN CHIMPANZEES RIDE BICYCLES, EAT AT THE TABLE LIKE A CHILD, AND DO OTHER STUNTS THEIR MANAGERS HAVEN'T HAD TOO MUCH DIFFICULTY IN TEACHING!



BUT WITHOUT TRAINING, THE CHIMPANZEE IN HIS NATIVE HABITAT DEMONSTRATES GREAT INTELLIGENCE! THEY'RE SOCIAL ANIMALS, BANDING TOGETHER, TAKING FOR THEIR LEADER, OLD GRAYBEARDS WHOSE WISDOM IS VALUED BY THE TRIBE! THEY GUARD THIS LEADER WHO MAY BE MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF AGE!

THE LEOPARD IS THEIR GREATEST ENEMY! THE GRAYBEARD DISCOVERED THE SILENT KILLER...BUT A YOUNGER APE DOES THE WORK OF ROUTING IT! ONCE MORE HE DEMONSTRATES HIS GREAT COMPARITIVE INTELLIGENCE! A CHIMP WILL OFTEN GRAB A STOUT CLUB TO BATTLE THE LEOPARD WITH...TO COMPENSATE FOR THE HUGE CAT'S SUPERIOR TEETH AND CLAWS!

THEY'RE ALMOST AS SMART AS HUMANS...UP UNTIL 18 MONTHS OR MORE, SOCIOLOGISTS HAVE DETERMINED FROM TESTS THEIR I.Q. ALMOST IS THE EQUAL OF MAN' BUT FROM THERE ON, THE GAP WIDENS...



END

THE BEETLE'S NEST

Dear Editor:

The BLUE BEETLE should run into some costumed villains. Also, you should have a letter column.

I hope you have great success with BB, success which will help start a whole new line of Super-Heroes. The more competition there is, the harder writers and artists will try and the better the comics will be. Good Luck.

James Taylor
Centralia, Wash.

(In issue #4 we have a sensational costumed villain. BB tangles with the GIANT PRAYING MANTIS-MAN. About competition inspiring better comics . . . you are 100% right! Thank you, James. — Ed.)

Dear Editor:

Do you think you could give BLUE BEETLE an underground cave with secret weapons?

Louis Dominguez
New York, N.Y.

(Sorry, Louie. GUNMASTER has one and we don't like to repeat the same ideas. — Ed.)

Dear Editor:

I'm happy to see that Charlton has jumped on the Super-Hero band wagon with the revival of one of the greatest characters of the 40's, BLUE BEETLE.

I have a recommendation for you. Put a letter page in BB in which you print the best letters the fans send. You could call the page something like, "The Beetle's Nest."

Thank you and good luck.

Paul Vizcarrondo
East Meadow, N.Y.

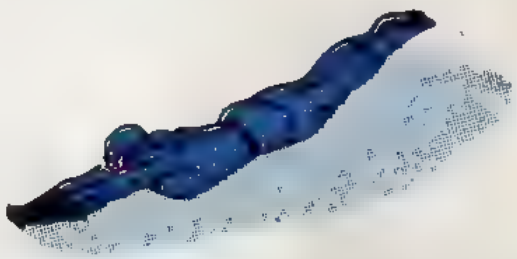
(Terrific title! We all thank you for your great suggestion. — Ed.)

Dear Editor:

Congratulations! About what? About BLUE BEETLE! Keep up the good work!

Sidney Costello, Jr.
Sun Valley, Calif.

(Thanks! What for? Your letter! We'll try! — Ed.)

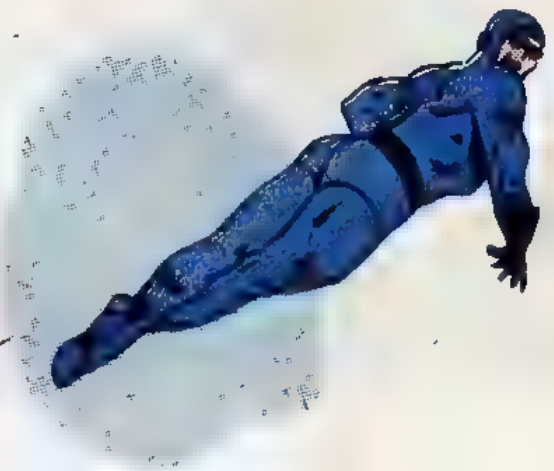


Dear Editor:

Boy, was I ever in for a surprise! I admit that I had been stuck on buying another brand of comics . . . that was before BLUE BEETLE came along! Yes, I'm simply saying that I think BB is the best on the market!

Gary Mincy
Ft. Worth, Texas

(Thank you, Gary. We hope to make him better and better. — Ed.)



Dear Editor:

I read issue #1 of BLUE BEETLE. Great! Now how about putting GUNMASTER in his very own book?

Bruce Williams
Skokie, Ill.

(We already have, Bruce. GUNMASTER and BULLET the gun-boy are in their own mag as well as being in SIX-GUN HEROES. — Ed.)

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Dear Editor:

As long time collectors of Super-Hero comics, we are very glad that you have revived BLUE BEETLE. It is a long awaited pleasure.

Now, if only you could do the same with some others.

Bill Regier and Chuck Moss
Bellevue, Nebr.

(We're working on it, boys. — Ed.)

Dear Editor:

The first issue of BB wasn't the greatest comic book I've ever seen, but it was the best stuff to come from your company. The plot of his origin story was excellent, and the tale itself was very good. I really liked BB's costume, especially those cool eyepieces. Somehow, this get-up is snazzy in its simplicity.

George R.R. Martin
Bayonne, N.J.

(I wear sunglasses that curve, that's where I got the idea for BB's eyepiece. — Ed.)

Dear Editor:

WOW! I collect quite a few comics, mostly Super-Heroes, and until now Charlton Comics had none . . . .

But BLUE BEETLE . . . YE GADS! You're doing OK for my money (I bought 10 copies of issue #1).

I am enclosing several suggestions.

George Pacinda
New Providence, N.J.

(Your suggestions are OK for our money! We intend to use some in the near future. Thank you very much. — Ed.)

don't miss the BLUE BEETLE issue 4

WITNESS THE UNFORGETTABLE BATTLE OF GIANTS WHEN BB MEETS THE ...

"PRAYING MANTIS-MAN"

PART 3 FLAMES OF FURY

BLUE BEETLE KNEW THERE WERE ONLY SECONDS LEFT BEFORE A GREAT CITY DIED...

MR. THUNDERBOLT WILL DESTROY THE WORLD IF HE IS NOT STOPPED!

AT THAT MOMENT, MR. THUNDERBOLT WAS EXHORTING THE EVIL AND ALIEN FORCES...

NO MERE MAN CAN TOUCH ME!

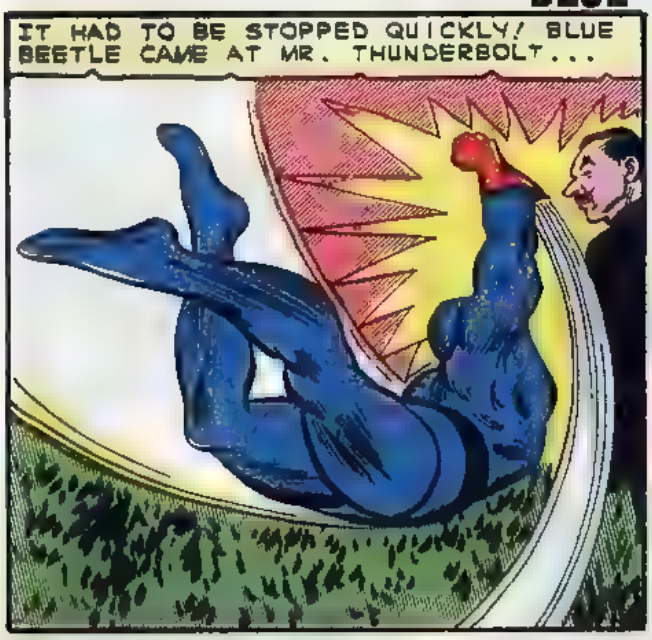
ZAP

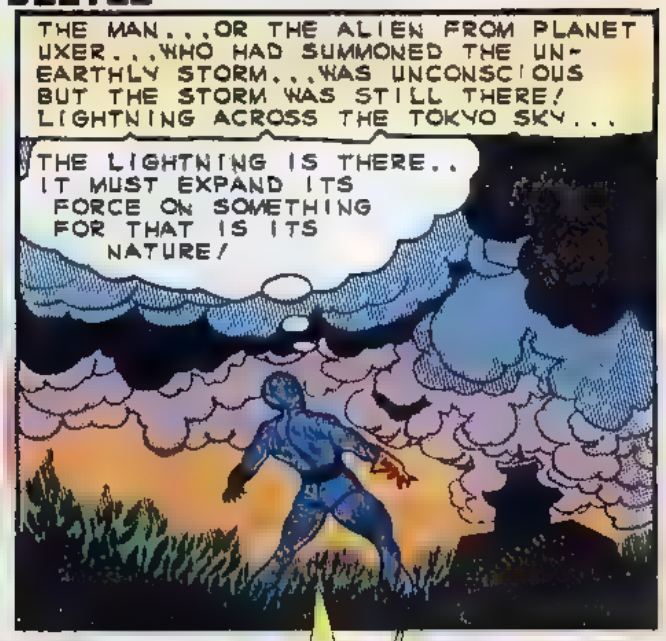
IN A SPLIT SECOND, SEETHING THUNDERHEADS BOILED OVER THE GREAT CITY OF TOKYO! THUNDER CRASHED AND LIGHTNING FLICKERED AROUND THE SULPHUROUS, HIDEOUS MASSES! MILLIONS SUDDENLY FELT A COLD CHILL OF FEAR...AND THERE WAS AN OMINOUS HUSH JUST BEFORE THE STORM BROKE!

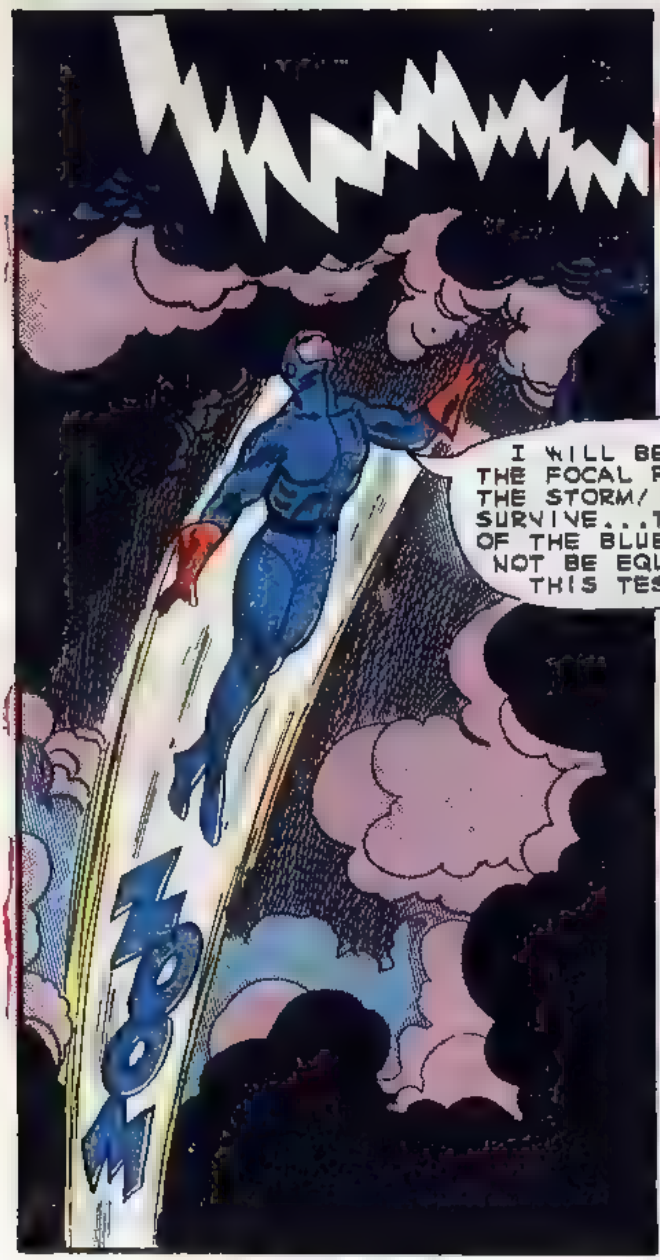
TO ME! LIGHTNING, COME TO ME... AND I WILL HURL YOUR BOLTS AT THE STUPID HUMANS WHO INHABIT THIS PLANET!

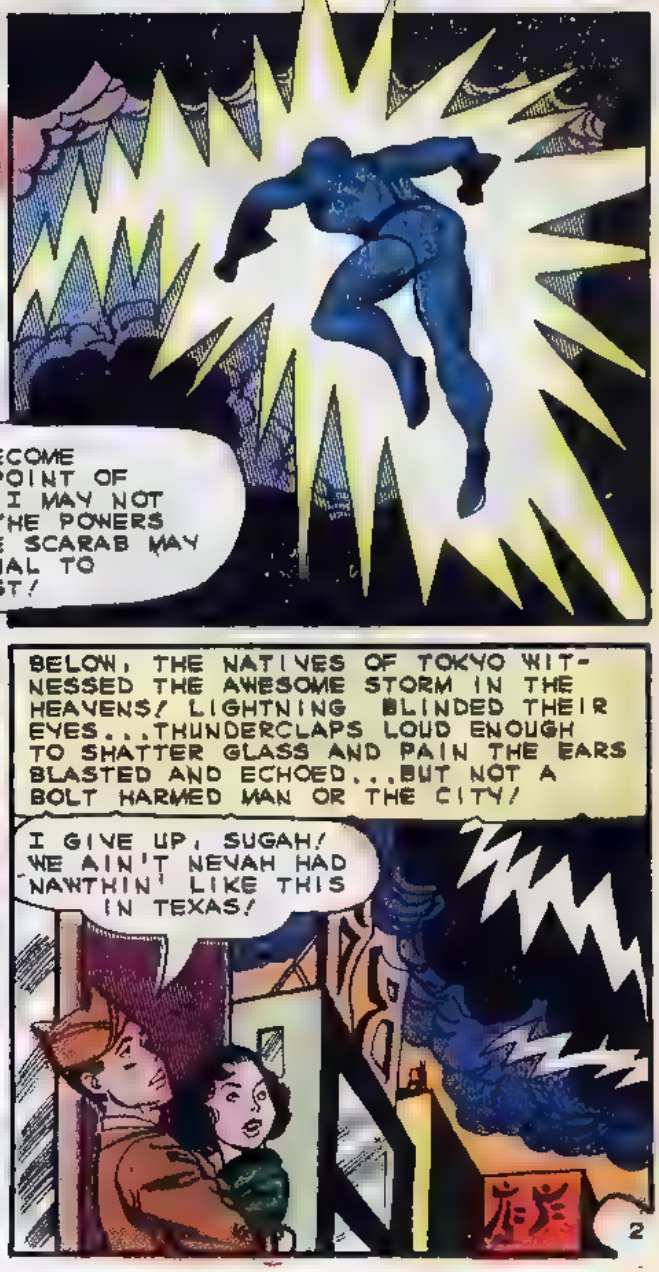
KA ROW

BLUE BEETLE


IT HAD TO BE STOPPED QUICKLY/ BLUE BEETLE CAME AT MR. THUNDERBOLT...


THE MAN...OR THE ALIEN FROM PLANET UXER...WHO HAD SUMMONED THE UNEARTHLY STORM...WAS UNCONSCIOUS BUT THE STORM WAS STILL THERE/ LIGHTNING ACROSS THE TOKYO SKY...
THE LIGHTNING IS THERE.. IT MUST EXPAND ITS FORCE ON SOMETHING FOR THAT IS ITS NATURE/


I WILL BECOME THE FOCAL POINT OF THE STORM/ I MAY NOT SURVIVE...THE POWERS OF THE BLUE SCARAB MAY NOT BE EQUAL TO THIS TEST/


BELOW, THE NATIVES OF TOKYO WITNESSED THE AWESOME STORM IN THE HEAVENS/ LIGHTNING BLINDED THEIR EYES...THUNDERCLAPS LOUD ENOUGH TO SHATTER GLASS AND PAIN THE EARS BLASTED AND ECHOED...BUT NOT A BOLT HARMED MAN OR THE CITY/
I GIVE UP, SUGAH/ WE AIN'T NEVAH HAD NAWTHIN' LIKE THIS IN TEXAS/

THE STORM ABATED...GREATER DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIAL THAN THAT FOUND IN A DOZEN ATOMIC BOMBS HAD BEEN EXPENDED ON THE BLUE BEETLE! HE SURVIVED...JUST BARELY!
IF IT HAD GONE ON ANOTHER FEW MINUTES...I WOULD'VE BEEN DONE FORE!
AHH! SO YOU THINK YOU'VE THWARTED ME, BLUE BEETLE!
YOUR RESERVE ENERGIES ARE DEPLETED...BUT MINE ARE UNTAPPED! NOW, BLUE BEETLE, I SHALL PROVE THAT I, UXER, AM INFINATELY SUPERIOR!
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK THERE, YOU UGLY CREEP!
BLUE BEETLE REFUSED TO SHOW FEAR BUT HE KNEW THUNDERBOLT'S BOAST WAS TRUE! HE WAS DRAINED, DEPLETED, UNABLE TO MOVE...
OBSERVE, BLUE BEETLE! OH, POWERS OF THE SKY, I.....
ME SAY MOVE YOU QUICK, JUMP ALONG, BIMEBY YOU GET HURTED!
THE FOOL!

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

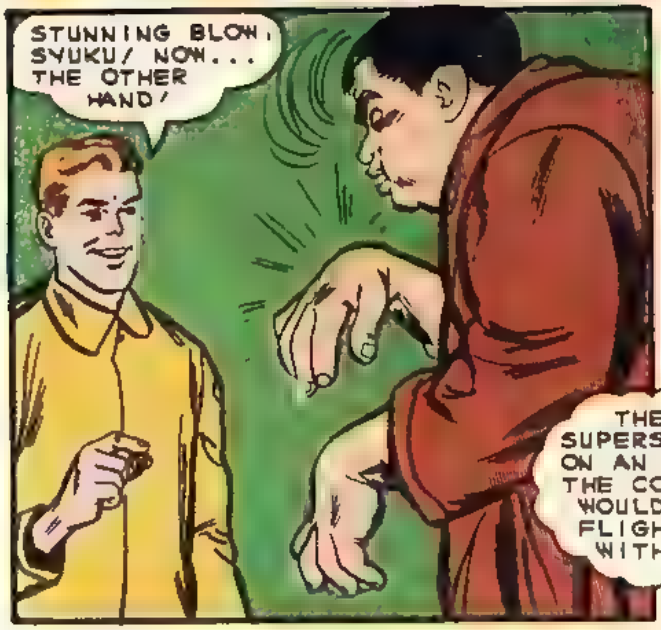
YOU TOO, FOREIGN DEVIL! YOU GET OUT, JUMP QUICK, HEAR ME GOOD?
NOW WAIT A MINUTE!
THE GUARDS HAD WORKED TOGETHER BEFORE! ONE BACKED BLUE BEETLE TOWARD THE OTHER AND THE SECOND GUARD WOULD UP FOR A GOOD SWAT!
LET ME EXPLAIN!
FRAK
HERE COMES SUPERSTAR... I WANT TO ESCORT IT IN TO LAND! GOT TO MAKE SURE NOTHING HAPPENS TO THAT PLANE!
UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT ESCORTING US IN, CAPTAIN!
NONSENSE! I'VE DECIDED I DIDN'T SEE A THING!

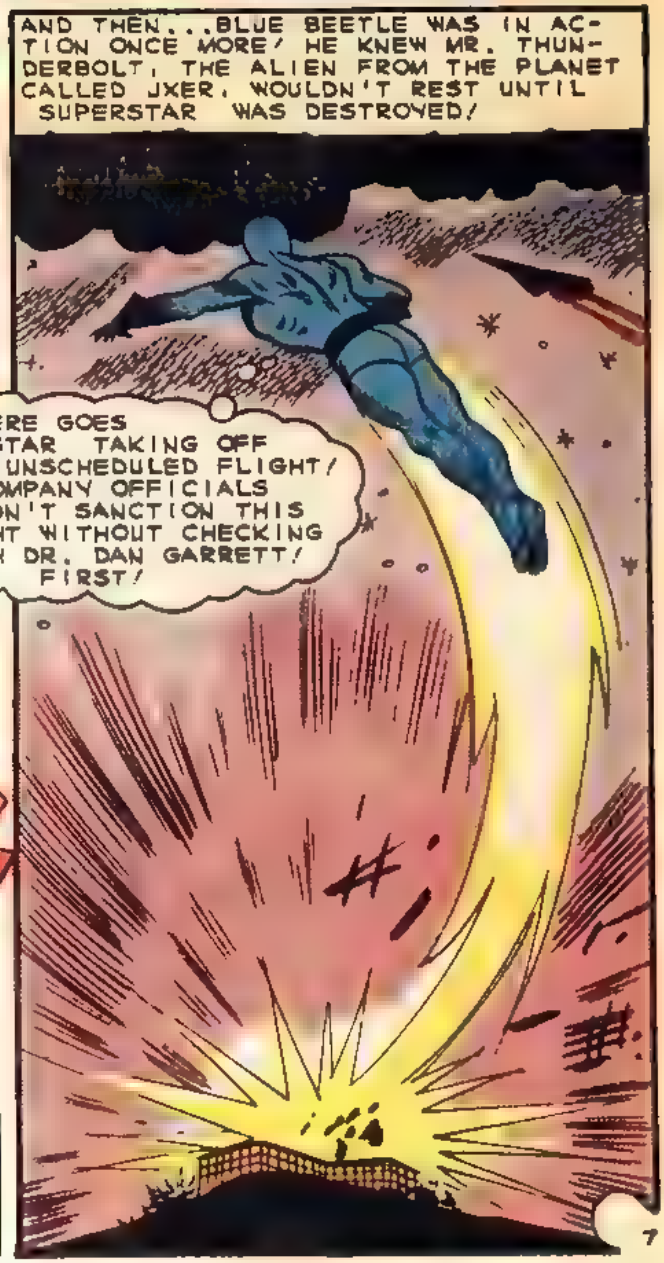
THEN, "SUPERSTAR" WAS AT REST...THE GREAT RAMPS WERE DRIVEN UP...AND THE PASSENGERS, ENGINEERS, AND CREWMEN DEBARKED/
DR. GARRETT, HOW D D YOU GET HERE BEFORE US?
THAT'S UNIMPORTANT/ LOOK, THE GUARDS AROUND SUPERSTAR MUST BE DOUBLED/ I'M CERTAIN THERE WILL BE ATTEMPTS AT SABOTAGE/
I HAVE RECRUITED YOU SPECIALISTS IN MAYHEM AT GREAT EXPENSE AND I EXPECT SATISFACTORY RESULTS/ YOU SEE THAT AIRCRAFT?
JAH/ WE DYNAMITE IT, NO?
NO, FOOL/ WE CANNOT SUCCEED IN SABOTAGING IT...UNTIL A MAN NAMED DR. DAN GARRETT HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF/ THIS IS WHAT I WISH YOU TO DO/
YAK
HE WILL SLEEP HEREAT THE AIRPORT/ WAIT UNTIL HE IS IN A DEEP SLEEP/ AND THEN REMOVE A RING HE WEARS... A BLUE SCARAB/ DO THIS AND I SHALL MAKE YOU ALL RICH/
AN EASY TASK FOR THREE EVIL EXPERTS LIKE THESE/ THE CHAUFFEUR, A CAUCASIAN FROM EUROPE, DOCTORED DR. GARRETT'S SAKE AT THE EVENING MEAL...

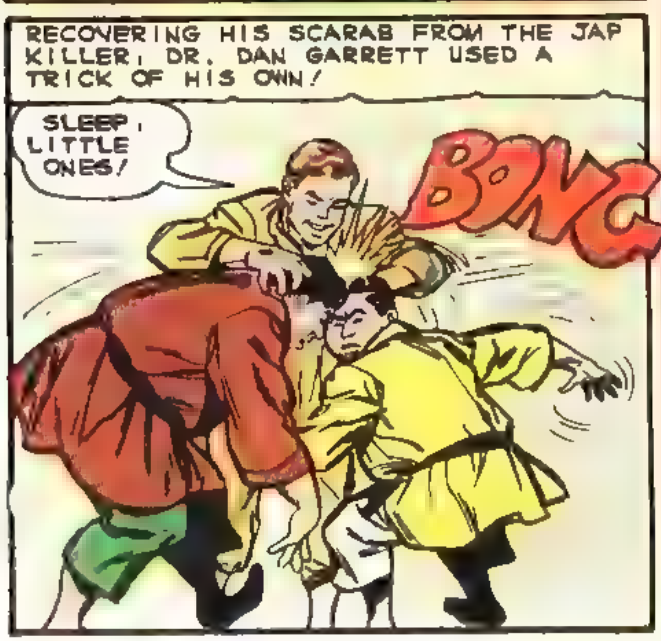
DR. GARRETT, EXHAUSTED FROM HIS STRENUOUS EFFORTS, FELT DROWSY THE MOMENT HE FINISHED DINNER/
DON'T REMEMBER EVER BEING THIS TIRED BEFORE..
DO NOT FEAR, SYUKU/ THE AMERICAN FOOL IS UN-CONSCIOUS/
TOO BAD/ I COULD HAVE DEMONSTRATED MY TOYSACHI WITH CROSS-HIP-AND-LITTLE-FINGER-THROW/
RIDICULOUSLY SIMPLE/ FOR THIS SMALL DEED WE WILL BE ENRICHED FOR LIFE/
EVEN IN DRUGGED SLUMBER, DR. DAN GARRETT FELT THE RING BEING REMOVED FROM HIS FINGER/ AND HE RE-ACTED/
IS BAD/ HE HAS CAUGHT YOU/
FOOL/ I HAVE AUTOMATIC PISTOL/
AH SO? FIVE SHOTS... HE MUST BE DEAD, NO?
BLAM
BAM
THE JAPANESE ASSASSIN TRIED TO PULL FREE/ HE LOOKED DOWN..AND DR. DAN GARRETT SMILED UP AT HIM/
GIVE ME THAT RING/
YOU ARE DEAD...I SHOT YOU MANY TIMES/

YOU MISSED... BUT I WON'T! THE RING, PLEASE!
HERE, SYUKU... TAKE IT TO DR. THUNDERBOLT! RUN!

THEN, IT WAS TOO LATE! SYUKU, THE KARATE EXPERT WHO BOASTED THAT HE COULD KILL WITH EITHER HAND, NO MATTER WHO OR WHAT SIZE HIS ENEMY WAS, MOVED IN HUNGRILY...ANTICIPATING ANOTHER VICTORY!
OHO!
KRAK

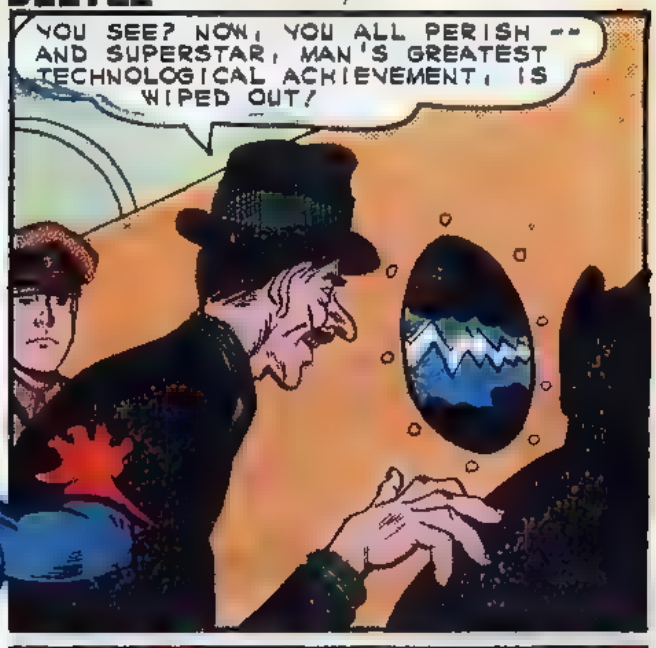

STUNNING BLOW, SYUKU! NOW... THE OTHER HAND!

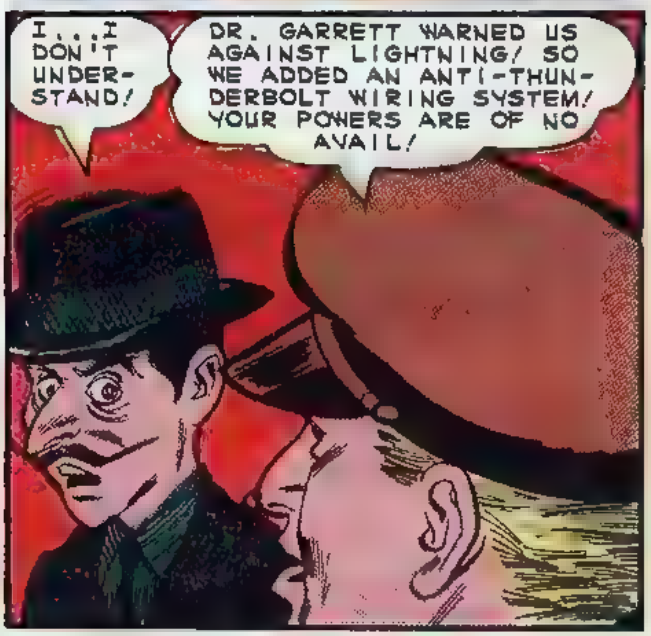

AND THEN...BLUE BEETLE WAS IN ACTION ONCE MORE! HE KNEW MR. THUNDERBOLT, THE ALIEN FROM THE PLANET CALLED JXER, WOULDN'T REST UNTIL SUPERSTAR WAS DESTROYED!
THERE GOES SUPERSTAR TAKING OFF ON AN UNSCHEDULED FLIGHT! THE COMPANY OFFICIALS WOULDN'T SANCTION THIS FLIGHT WITHOUT CHECKING WITH DR. DAN GARRETT! FIRST!


RECOVERING HIS SCARAB FROM THE JAP KILLER, DR. DAN GARRETT USED A TRICK OF HIS OWN!
SLEEP, LITTLE ONES!
BONG

ABOARD SUPERSTAR, MR. THUNDERBOLT WAS IN CHARGE!
DR. GARRETT WARNED US AGAINST YOU, MR. THUNDERBOLT! YOU CANNOT INTIMIDATE US, HE...
BE STILL OR YOU WILL FEEL MY LIGHTNING TURN YOUR BONES TO JELLY! FLY THIS PLANE HIGH...OUT INTO THE EDGES OF SPACE!
THIS IS THE END OF MY MISSION TO YOUR STUPID PLANET! I HAVE BROUGHT CHAOS AND RUIN...MY FINAL BLOW AT YOUR WORLD WILL BE THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS AIRCRAFT!
I HAVE DEFEATED YOUR CHAMPION! AT THIS MOMENT, BLUE BEETLE IS WITHOUT HIS GREAT POWERS, UNDOUBTEDLY DEAD IN TOKYO!
I SUMMON THE POWERS OF THE UNIVERSE! THE THUNDER-BOLTS OF UXER WILL STRIKE THOSE I WISH TO DESTROY!
ZOOOM

THE LIGHTNING STORM CLOSED IN ON SUPERSTAR BEFORE BLUE BEETLE REACHED THE GREAT AIRCRAFT/ THE HEAVE[illegible]L RIPPED ASUNDER...


YOU SEE? NOW, YOU ALL PERISH -- AND SUPERSTAR, MAN'S GREATEST TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT, IS WIPED OUT/


I...I DON'T UNDER-STAND/
DR. GARRETT WARNED US AGAINST LIGHTNING/ SO WE ADDED AN ANTI-THUN-DERBOLT WIRING SYSTEM/ YOUR POWERS ARE OF NO AVAIL/

JUST THEN, BLUE BEETLE HURTLED CLOSER...AND PASSED EASILY THROUGH THE THICK METAL WALLS/
BLUE BEETLE/ YOU THINK TO THWART ME...ME, A CREATURE OF UXER, VASTLY SUPERIOR TO ANY HUMAN/
YOUR TIME IS UP WITH US, THUNDERBOLT/ YOU'VE OUTSTAY-ED YOUR WELCOME/

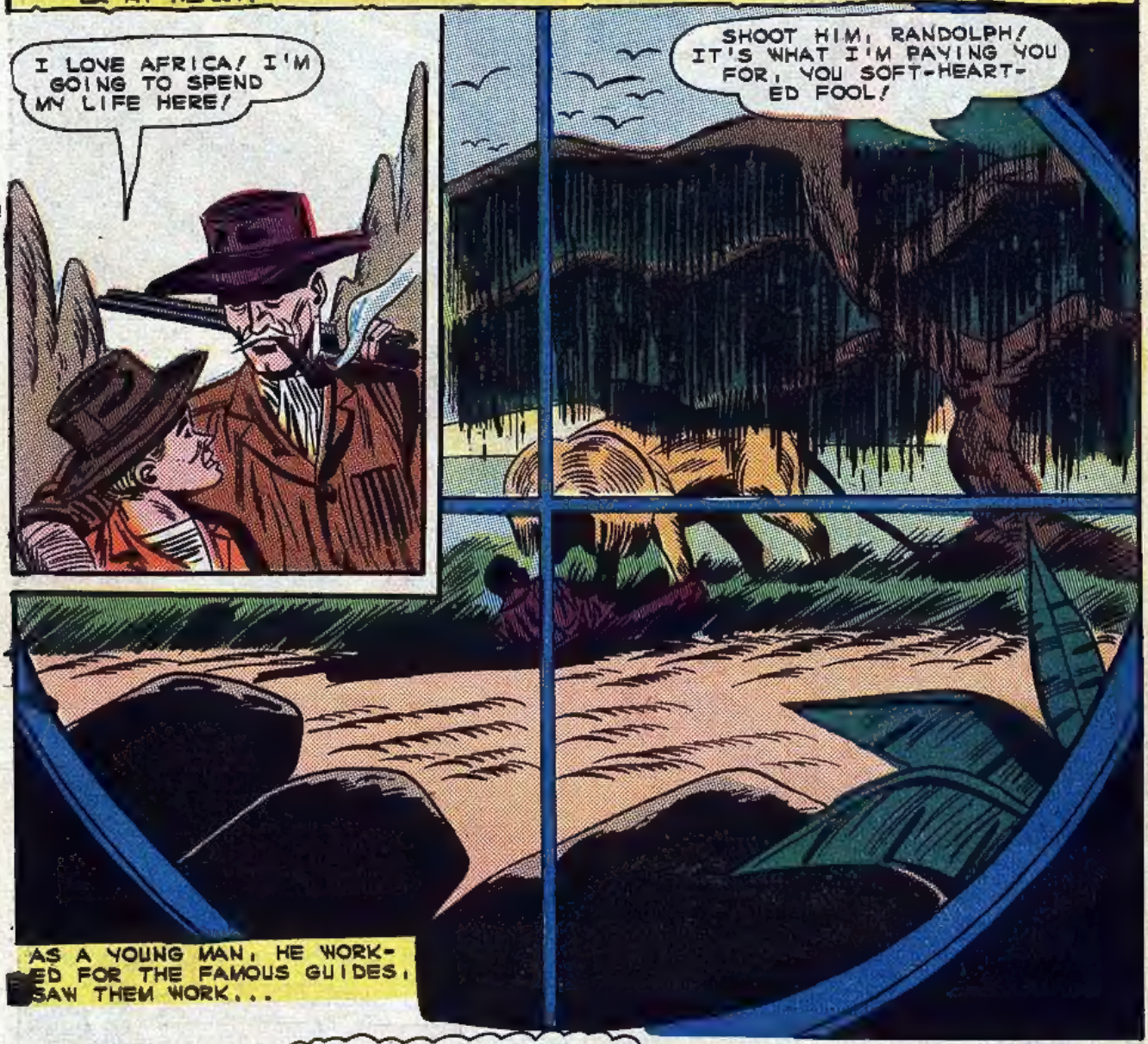
DIE, EARTHLING/ WITH YOU DEAD, MY MISSION IS...I SAY DIE/
I SAY...

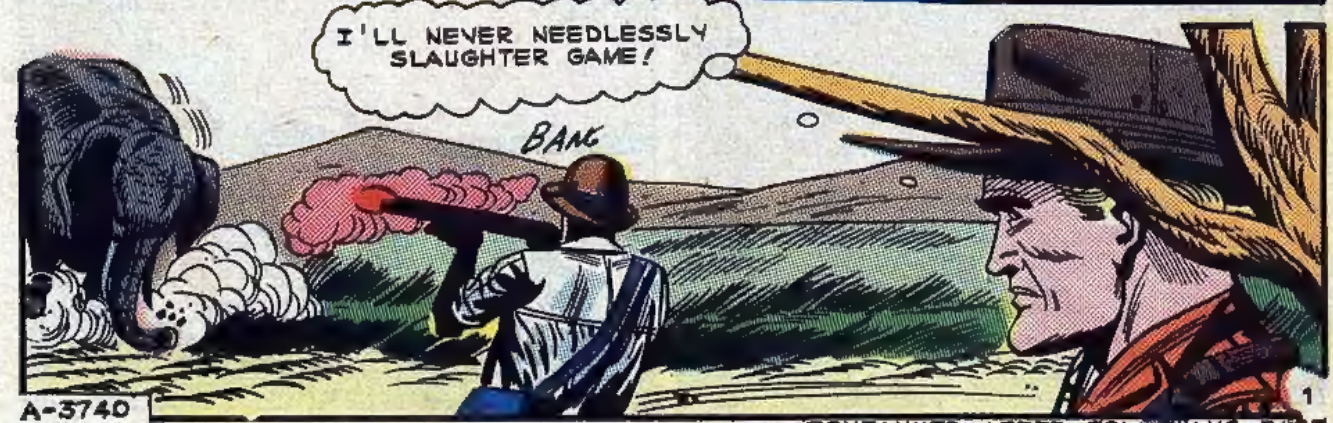
CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

...WE'VE HAD ENOUGH, MR. THUNDERBOLT! NOW, I'M GOING TO PERSONALLY ESCORT YOU BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM!
NO! NO, I CANNOT RETURN UNTIL I... ULPP!!
OUT INTO SPACE WITH MR. THUNDERBOLT...AWAY FROM EARTH, OUT OF HIS OWN GALAXY, INTO THE BLACK UNKNOWN...CALLING ON THE POWERS OF THE BLUE SCARAB MORE THAN EVER BEFORE!
I SEE UXER...I'M SENDING YOU HOME!
HURTLING THE CREATURE WHO HAD CONCEITEDLY CALLED HIMSELF MR. THUNDERBOLT, THE BLUE BEETLE MADE A DIRECT HIT ON THE PLANET FROM WHENCH HE CAME!
BARO
THEN, BACK TO EARTH...
THERE'S SUPERSTAR...SAFE AND SOUND...THE SYMBOL OF MAN'S ACHIEVEMENT IN HIS STRUGGLE TO CONQUER TIME AND SPACE!
...AND HIS PLACE IN SOCIETY AS DR. GARRETT, ARCHEOLOGIST AND ENGINEERING CONSULTANT!
DR. GARRETT, YOUR LECTURE ON THE MOLECULAR INSTABILITY OF...
CALL ME DAN....
END

NO KILLER INSTINCT

IN KENYA, IN THE HIGHLANDS WHERE THE GNU AND THE WAPITI AND THE GIRAFFE LOPE ACROSS THE GREAT PLAIN, THE LIONS ALSO DWELL...AND THE WHITE HUNTERS LIKE JIM RANDOLPH WHO WAS YOUNG AT THE GAME AND WHO OLD-TIMERS SAID WOULDN'T LAST BECAUSE HE WASN'T A HUNTER AT HEART!


I LOVE AFRICA! I'M GOING TO SPEND MY LIFE HERE!
SHOOT HIM, RANDOLPH! IT'S WHAT I'M PAYING YOU FOR, YOU SOFT-HEARTED FOOL!
AS A YOUNG MAN, HE WORKED FOR THE FAMOUS GUIDES, SAW THEM WORK...



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THE YOUNG LION JIM RANDOLPH HAD HAD IN HIS TELESCOPIC SIGHTS CAUGHT THEIR SCENT THEN AS THE WIND SHIFTED/ HIS SNARL RUMBLED DEEP IN HIS CHEST AND THE HUGE TEETH GLISTENED IN THE SUN AS HE DEFIED THEM AND THEIR GUNS BEFORE HE VANISHED IN THE BUSH....

SORRY, MR. KERST--YOU'VE GOT A GRIPE COMING/ FINE YOUNG MALES LIKE THAT ONE ARE NEEDED IN OUR COUNTRY FOR BREEDERS/

WHATEVER GRATUITY I INTENDED FOR YOU PERSONALLY HAS JUST BEEN HALVED, RANDOLPH/ COME, CLARISSA...

LATER...

MR. RANDOLPH, YOU WERE VERY RIGHT IN NOT SHOOTING THAT SPLENDID YOUNG LION/ ISN'T IT DIFFICULT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL HUNTER, THOUGH, AND HAVE QUALMS ABOUT KILLING WILD ANIMALS?

I'D TAKE A BIGGER ANIMAL, WELL PAST HIS PRIME...IT WOULD BE MORE SATISFYING TO MOST HUNTERS TO GET A LARGER TROPHY EVEN IF IT WERE ON THE OLDISH SIDE/ THAT WAY, WE KEEP YOUNG HEALTHY ANIMALS IN THE BUSH/

A DO-GOODER IN A NEGATIVE SORT OF WAY? I LIKE IT, I THINK/

IN THE MORNING, A BEAUTIFUL BLACK PANTHER WAS TRAPPED, INTENDED FOR OTHER GAME/ THIS WAS TRULY A SUPERB ANIMAL...

THIS WON'T GO FREE, I'LL SEE TO THAT/ STAND ASIDE RANDOLPH/

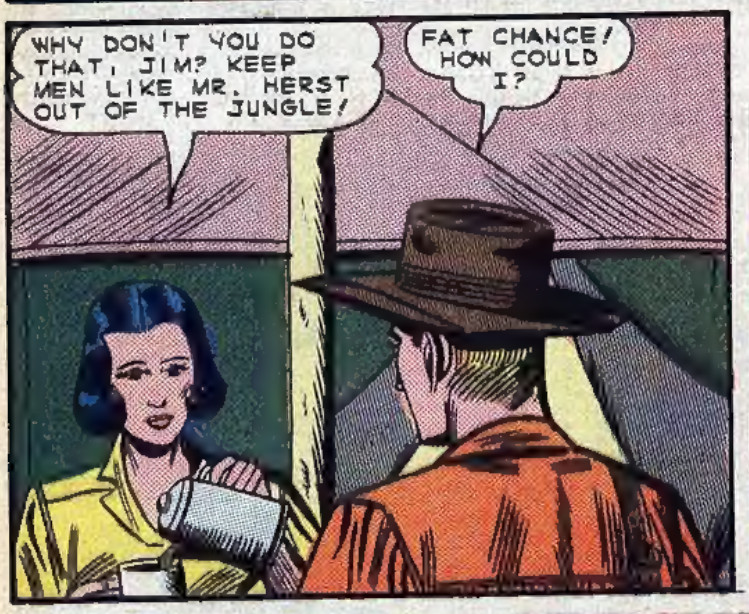
PUT IT DOWN, KERST/ DOWN, I SAY/

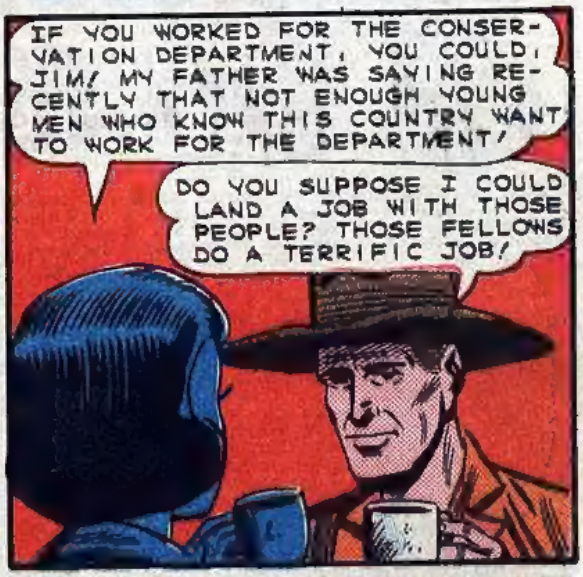
YOU CHICKEN-LIVERED... UNGH/

WHAM

CHARLTON COMICS GIVE YOU MORE!

I'LL SEE THAT YOUR LICENSE IS TAKEN AWAY, RANDOLPH! YOU'LL NEVER WORK AS A WHITE HUNTER AGAIN!
I'M SICK OF BUTCHERS LIKE YOU ANYHOW, KERST! IF I HAD MY WAY, I'D KEEP KILLERS LIKE YOU OUT OF THE JUNGLE!




IF YOU WORKED FOR THE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT, YOU COULD, JIM! MY FATHER WAS SAYING RECENTLY THAT NOT ENOUGH YOUNG MEN WHO KNOW THIS COUNTRY WANT TO WORK FOR THE DEPARTMENT!
DO YOU SUPPOSE I COULD LAND A JOB WITH THOSE PEOPLE? THOSE FELLOWS DO A TERRIFIC JOB!

SO...THE WHITE HUNTER WHO HAD NO KILLER INSTINCT DIDN'T NEED ONE FROM THEN ON...EXCEPT THAT, WHEN IT CAME TO POACHERS, HE TURNED OUT NOT CHICKEN-HEARTED AT ALL!
KRAAK